



2010 Annual Report

THE IRAQI AND AMERICAN RECONCILIATION  
PROJECT (IARP) PROMOTES RECONCILIATION  
BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES  
AND IRAQ IN RESPONSE TO THE DEVASTATION  
AFFECTING IRAQI FAMILIES, SOCIETY, AND  
CULTURE. IARP RECOGNIZES THE COMMON  
HUMANITY OF THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ AND THE  
PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

IRAQI  
and AMERICAN

RECONCILIATION  
PROJECT

# WHO IS IARP?

The **Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project** (IARP) connects Iraqis and Americans in art, health, education, and cultural exchange projects that promote peace and help to rebuild Iraq.



Working with our partner in Iraq the Muslim Peacemaker Teams (MPT), IARP supports the rehabilitation of Iraqi society and presents Iraqi culture to Americans. The mission of the organization is to "assist and promote reconciliation between the peoples of America and Iraq in response to the devastation of Iraqi families, society and culture."

IARP began in 2004 when Iraqi-American and 25-year Minneapolis resident Sami Rasouli returned to his home in Najaf, Iraq, to reconnect with his family and society. There, Sami founded MPT, a non-religious organization supporting human rights and civil society in Iraq. Colleagues and friends of Mr. Rasouli started IARP in Minneapolis in the same year, and IARP was incorporated as a non-profit in July of 2007.

Based in the Sister Cities of Minneapolis and Najaf, IARP and MPT work together to serve Iraqis and Americans affected by the Iraq war: refugees, veterans and families of veterans, Iraqis with little access to clean water or electricity, those physically injured by the war, Iraqi professionals and government officials, children in both countries, and others affected by the war.

[www.reconciliationproject.org](http://www.reconciliationproject.org)





# OUR PHILOSOPHY



## WHAT IS IT?

The mission of the Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project is to promote reconciliation between the people of the United States and Iraq in response to the devastation of Iraqi families, society, and culture. IARP recognizes the common humanity of the people of Iraq and the people of the United States.

## HOW DO WE DO IT?

Our approach is long-term public, private, and nonprofit partnership. Based in the Sister Cities of Minneapolis and Najaf, we work with city government, local nonprofit organizations, and private businesses to coordinate a dynamic, community-based relationship between Americans and Iraqis.



## WHO ARE THE MUSLIM PEACEMAKER TEAMS?

IARP partners with the Muslim Peacemaker Teams (MPT) in Iraq.

The mission of MPT, a non-religious and non-sectarian group, is to bring all Iraqi groups together in peace to work for the good of the country by getting in the way of violence while encouraging the people to be self sufficient. MPT's immediate goals are to teach nonviolence and human rights so the Iraqi people can once again live in a civil society, to help the people to maintain their physical health, and to lift their spirits by providing encouragement and support.



[www.reconciliationproject.org](http://www.reconciliationproject.org)

# MINNEAPOLIS - NAJAF SISTER CITY PROJECT

On July 31, 2009, the Minneapolis City Council voted unanimously to become Sister Cities with Najaf, Iraq. A Sister City relationship is a symbolic statement of friendship and an official commitment to build tangible connections between two cities. The relationship between Minneapolis and Najaf offers a unique opportunity to repair the relationship between Americans and Iraqis and to support Iraqi reconstruction. The Sister City relationship is a critical local-level complement to U.S. Government efforts. Local community and citizen resources provide an array of skills, vision, and credibility to supplement national government work. In short, the Minneapolis-Najaf Sister City relationship is an effective, replicable model for citizen-led, local-to-global peace-building.



## THE MINNEAPOLIS - NAJAF SISTER CITY PROJECT ALSO INCLUDES:

**Iraqi Art Project** – Since the first showing in 2005, IARP has displayed over 450 pieces of Iraqi Art at 5 gallery shows, 15 smaller venue showings, countless informal gatherings, and an online gallery. The project “changes the conversation” on Iraq by bringing art and culture from the Cradle of Civilization (Iraq) to the United States.

**Water for Peace** – 51 individuals, school and civic groups have raised and contributed \$32,798 for water sanitation systems to be installed in 33 schools and a large teaching hospital in Najaf. The relationships between peoples from both countries are maintained through exchanges of letters, emails, and photos.

**Letters for Peace** –Thousands of American and Iraqi students have exchanged letters with each other. College students are building a pen-pal program.





## 2010

Since the first delegation in 2009, artists, academics, business owners, Najaf's Chamber of Commerce President, and other government officials have traveled to Minneapolis, and Minneapolisians have begun traveling to Najaf, including academics from the University of Minnesota and Augsburg College.

In 2010, A student who helped host the delegates organized a semester-long fundraising effort to provide clean water in Najaf schools and a letter and video exchange with Iraqi students.

Artists from Najaf visited Minneapolis in July 2010 to participate in Minneapolis' Sister City celebration and the opening of a visual art exhibition where their work was featured alongside American art.

Najaf's Chamber of Commerce President visited Minneapolis in November 2010 to expand business relationships and opportunities for people of Minnesota and Najaf.



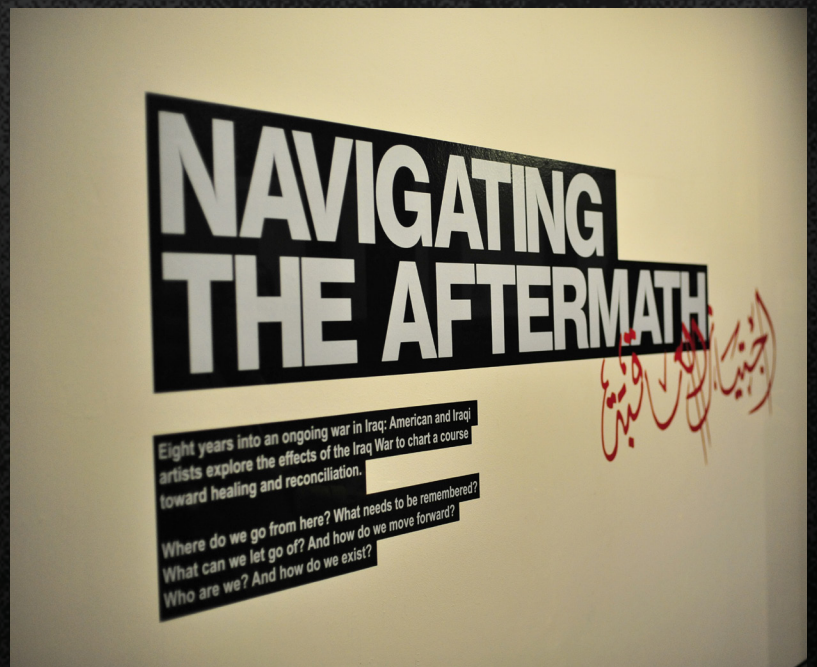
The Najaf Chamber of Commerce, IARP, and Prairie Wind International (PWI), a company based in Minnesota, began a joint project to license a structural insulated panels (SIP) manufacturing facility throughout the world, with the goal of transferring the technology and skills to build affordable, sustainable housing in southern Iraq. IARP, PWI, and the Najaf Chamber of Commerce are currently in talks with regional government in Iraq.

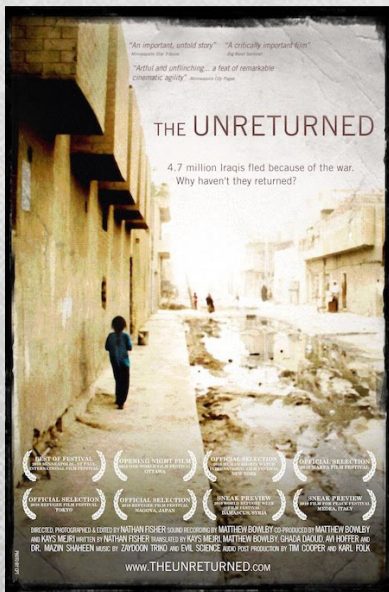
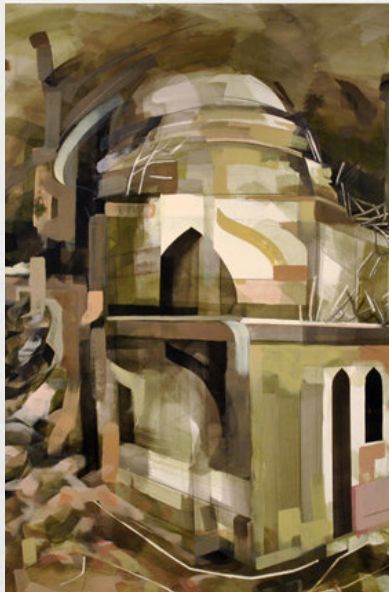
Often the Minneapolis - Najaf Sister City Project will have a deep impact on one individual. Zainab Jawhar is an Iraqi woman from Najaf who lost her legs to an American missile in 2004. In the fall of 2010, IARP and its partners worked with Minneapolis businesses and medical facilities to bring her to the U.S. to receive new prostheses and physical therapy, free of charge. In December of 2010 she returned to Najaf, still mastering the use of her new legs but with a brighter future.



# THE IRAQI ART PROJECT

Since the first showing in 2005, IARP has displayed over 450 pieces of Iraqi Art in 25 gallery shows and smaller venue showings, countless informal gatherings, and an online gallery. The project “changes the conversation” on Iraq by bringing art and culture from the Cradle of Civilization to the United States.





# 2010

## NUMBERS

- 75 pieces of art by present-day Iraqi artists brought to Minneapolis and Minnesota
- 6 exhibits and smaller venue showings of Iraqi Art in Minnesota

## THE ART OF CONFLICT

The Art of Conflict was a juried visual art exhibition that brought together 15 pieces by Minnesota artists and 15 pieces by Iraqi artists in dialogue on the effects of war and displacement on identity. The show brought two featured Iraqi artists to Minneapolis for artist talks and exchanges with local artists and also included programming with artists, refugee agencies, veterans, and a documentary on Iraqi refugees.

[www.theartofconflict.org](http://www.theartofconflict.org)

## FEATURED ARTISTS

Aaron McLeod	Hussein Al-Hilali	Papo Valedon-Gomez
Ali Almimar	Ibraheem Hussein	Samantha Starbird
Ali Ghassan	James Allen	Sandra Barnhouse
Ali Moshin	Jane Powers	Sean Russell
Angela Maki Jones	Jim Boden	Sean Smuda
Bilal Bahir	Marilee Collins	Thomas McDonald
Clare Rosean	Matthew Lawler	Veru Narula
Faten Al-Jumaily	Megan Rye	
Ghalib Al-Monsouri	Monica Haller	

## THE UNRETURNED

IARP featured the documentary film, *The Unreturned*, throughout the year. Directed and produced by Minneapolis native Nathan Fisher, the film portrays the lives of five displaced Iraqis from diverse ethnicities and religions.

# WATER FOR PEACE

Water for Peace is a program that partners American groups with Iraqi schools to provide water sanitation systems at Iraqi schools without access to clean water. Rather than a one-way relationship, IARP builds sustainable relationships between the American and Iraqi groups through photos, letter exchanges, and other media. Water for Peace also provides health education to Iraqis on avoiding contracting water-borne diseases and is carried out in conjunction with education and training on peacebuilding.





# 2010

## NUMBERS

- 22 schools in Iraq with clean water thanks to Water for Peace
- Over 8800 students in Iraq with clean water thanks to Water for Peace

According to the Red Cross, 40% of Iraqis lack access to clean water, putting millions (especially children) at risk of contracting diseases from unsafe water. Water-borne diseases such as diarrhea are the biggest killers of children under 5 in Iraq. While the Iraqi government, Iraqi non-governmental organizations, and international actors have made some progress on restoring Iraq's water systems, unclean and unsafe water will remain a significant health risk to Iraqis for years.

Hundreds of elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools in the area of Najaf, Kufa, Al- Manadhera, Al- Hriyah and Al-Abbassiyat in Najaf Province still lack access to clean water. There are an average of 400 students and 20 teaching staff members at each school, and 55 percent of students are girls.



## SELECTED 2010 AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Bethel University Students             | Medtronic Child Care Center               |
| Beyond War International               | Minneapolis Society of Friends Meeting    |
| Catlin Gabel School                    | Pilgrim Lutheran Church                   |
| Echo Valley Hope                       | St. Joseph's Catholic Church-Grand Rapids |
| Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation | University of St. Thomas                  |
| Vets for Peace                         |   |



## SELECTED 2010 IRAQI PARTICIPANTS

- Matlaa Al-Fajr Elementary School
- Imam Redha Elementary School for Girls
- Dimah Institute for Special Education
- Al-Shumoo Kindergarten
- Al-Khawrnaq High School for Boys
- As-Suraj School
- Al-Hiwariyoon Elementary School

# LETTERS FOR PEACE

Letters for Peace is a way to foster meaningful relationships between students in America and students in Iraq and help students open their hearts and minds to one another. It is a way for students to realize that what we have in common is often greater and more meaningful than what separates us. By participating in the Letters for Peace Program, students can gain personal insight into an often misunderstood region of the world and expand their perspective on the consequences of war on everyday life.

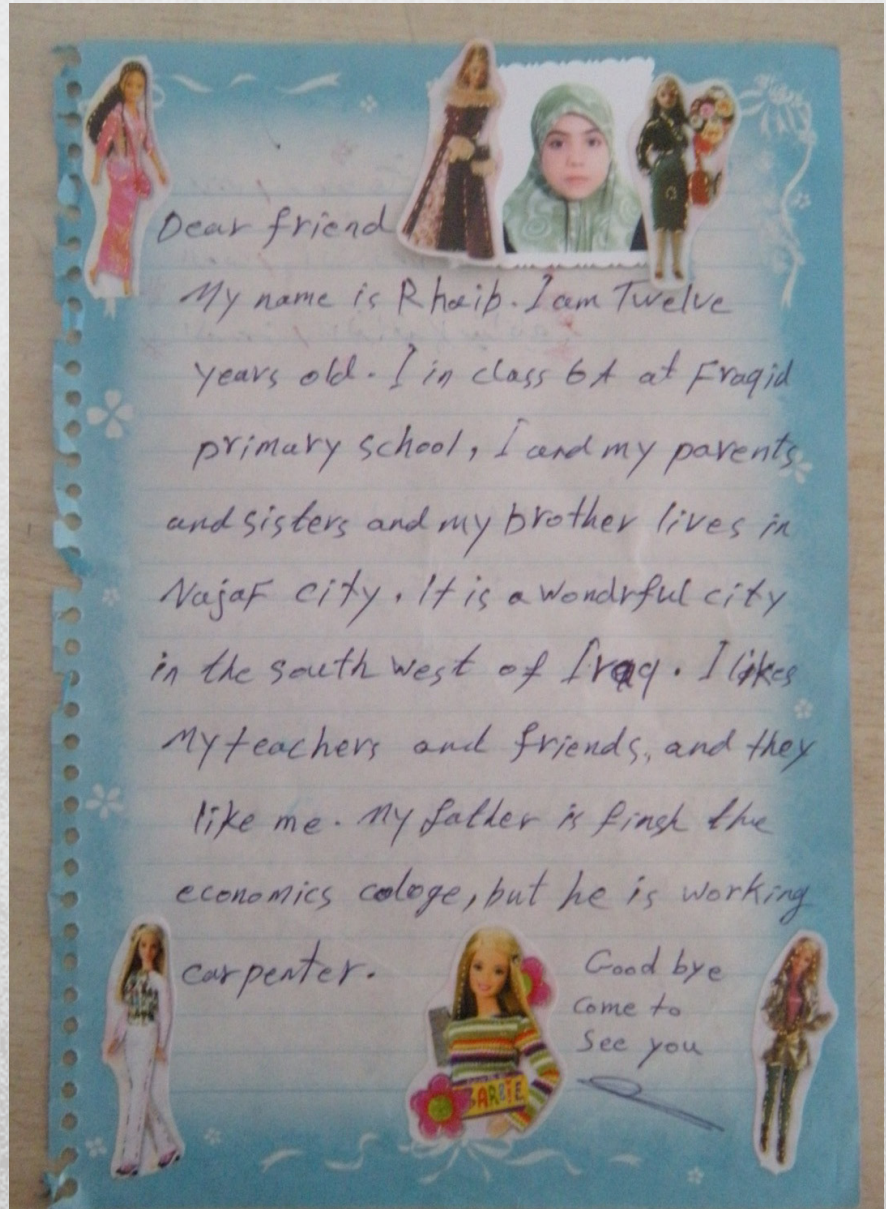
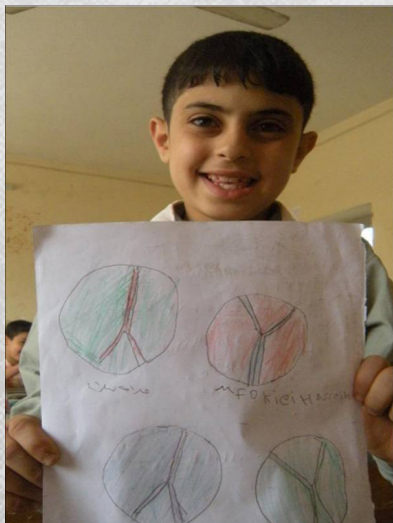




## 2010

Letters for Peace is designed in conjunction with our sister non-profit in Iraq, the Muslim Peacemaker Teams. Students in the US write letters to their peers in Iraq, and the letters are then translated and forwarded to Iraq. MPT works with Iraqi students to write letters and send photos in return. We also provide easy-to-use video equipment in case teachers are interested in including a video recording component to the project. Letters and any other media used in the project are optionally posted on our website.

In 2010, over 150 students in Iraq and the U.S. exchanged letters through Letters for Peace.





WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF WAR ON AN INDIVIDUAL AND ON A SOCIETY?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “ESCAPE” FROM WAR?

HOW ARE FOREIGN CONFLICTS CONNECTED TO MINNESOTA?

WHAT DO U.S. VETERANS OF THE IRAQ WAR HAVE TO SAY?



Selected IARP supporters and partners:

- Bethel College
- Council on American Islamic Relations
- Friends for a NonViolent World
- Intermedia Arts
- Lanesboro Art Center
- Loring Park Art Festival
- Medtronic
- Meet Minneapolis: Official Convention and Visitors Association
- City of Minneapolis
- Minneapolis Institute of Arts
- Minneapolis School District
- Minneapolis Society of Friends Meeting
- Minnesota Council of Churches
- Muslim Peacemaker Teams, Najaf
- Najaf Chamber of Commerce
- Pax Christi Twin Cities
- Perpich Center for Arts Education
- Pilgrim Lutheran School, Minneapolis
- Prairie Wind International
- Sabes Jewish Community Center
- Springboard for the Arts
- St. Joan of Arc Parish
- University of St. Thomas
- The Advocates for Human Rights
- University of Minnesota
- Vets for Peace
- Women Against Military Madness



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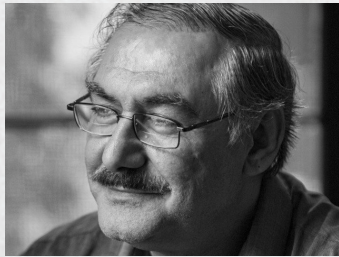
# STAFF

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## KATHY MCKAY

Kathy McKay, Executive Director. Kathy is a co-founder of the Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project. A resident of St. Louis Park, Kathy has been involved in management in both the for-profit and non-profit worlds for 35 years. She has primarily been involved in the health care arena providing direct service as a psychologist and as principal in two start-ups.



## SAMI RASOULI

Sami Rasouli, Executive Director of the Muslim Peacemaker Teams. Sami was born in Najaf, Iraq in 1951 and is Executive Director of the Muslim Peacemaker Teams (MPT) in Iraq. Since 2003, he has been a tireless advocate for the people of Iraq and for peace, reconciliation, and nonviolence. Since he founded MPT and the Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project (IARP) in 2004, they have operated under his leadership to counter the corrosive effects of war and rebuild relationships and lives in the two countries.



## LUKE WILCOX

Luke Wilcox, Development and Communications Director. Luke has also worked with The Advocates for Human Rights, the Muslim-Christian Dialogue Center, and Washington Office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Luke was a Katherine Davis Fellow for Peace in 2010 and graduated from Boston University with an M.A. in International Relations and speaks Arabic. He is a native of Sioux Falls, SD.



## TRICIA KHUTORETSKY

Tricia Khutoretsky, Curator, Iraqi Art Project. Tricia holds an M.A. in Arts and Cultural Management from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. Her undergraduate degree is from Macalester College in English and Communications. She has worked extensively in the Twin Cities in editorial, art direction and curatorial positions. Previously she was the editor-in-chief of a local, underground arts magazine called Industry Minne-zine and was the Assistant Curator of the Ordway's International Flint Hills Children's Festival ArtWalk. Tricia grew up in the Middle East.

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# 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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WE ARE PASSIONATE FOR PEACE.

WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US.



# 2010 Income and Expense Report

	<b>Admin &amp; General</b>	<b>Unclassified</b>
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Campaign Income</b>	300	0
<b>Contributions Income</b>	10,486	3,238
<b>Donations</b>	134	0
<b>Reimbursed Expenses</b>	50	0
<b>Sale of Products</b>	1,446	65
<b>Speaking</b>	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	12,416	3,303
<b>Less Cost of Goods Sold</b>	100	0
<b>NET TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,316</b>	<b>3,303</b>
<b>Expense</b>	0	0
<b>Advertising/Promotional</b>	260	0
<b>Automobile Expense</b>	0	0
<b>Contract Labor</b>	6,700	0
<b>Contributions</b>	25	2,388
<b>Direct Expense</b>	1,974	145
<b>Equipment Rental/Gallery rer</b>	0	0
<b>Fiscal Sponsor Fee</b>	0	0
<b>Insurance</b>	0	0
<b>Licenses and Permits</b>	945	0
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	0	0
<b>Professional Fees</b>	250	0
<b>Program Expense</b>	0	0
<b>Reconciliation Discrepancies</b>	(7)	0
<b>Sales Tax</b>	270	0
<b>Supplies</b>	24	42
<b>Travel &amp; Ent</b>	711	32
<b>Total Expense</b>	11,152	2,607
<b>NET INCOME LESS EXPENSE</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>696</b>

<b>Art Exhibits</b>	<b>MPT</b>	<b>Sister City</b>	<b>Water for Peace</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
0	0	0	0	<b>300</b>
11,135	7,668	8,321	21,751	<b>62,599</b>
0	680	0	0	<b>814</b>
494	0	0	0	<b>544</b>
2,717	0	0	0	<b>4,228</b>
0	350	0	0	<b>350</b>
<b>14,346</b>	<b>8,698</b>	<b>8,321</b>	<b>21,751</b>	<b>68,835</b>
2,289	0	0	0	<b>2,389</b>
<b>12,057</b>	<b>8,698</b>	<b>8,321</b>	<b>21,751</b>	<b>66,446</b>
1,187	0	208	158	<b>1,813</b>
0	0	6	0	<b>6</b>
1,208	0	0	0	<b>7,908</b>
0	8,208	0	16,569	<b>27,190</b>
789	419	53	893	<b>4,273</b>
780	0	43	0	<b>823</b>
700	0	0	119	<b>819</b>
0	0	946	0	<b>946</b>
500	0	500	0	<b>1,945</b>
0	100	0	0	<b>100</b>
430	250	2,038	0	<b>2,968</b>
3,200	0	122	1,620	<b>4,942</b>
0	0	0	0	<b>(7)</b>
0	0	0	0	<b>270</b>
216	0	0	28	<b>311</b>
4,896	307	7,939	14	<b>13,900</b>
<b>13,906</b>	<b>9,284</b>	<b>11,855</b>	<b>19,401</b>	<b>68,206</b>
<b>(1,850)</b>	<b>(586)</b>	<b>(3,534)</b>	<b>2,350</b>	<b>(1,760)</b>

# Thank you to all of our supporters!

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"MidEast Madonna" by James Allen

